

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

Chairman  
Tsunetaro Miyakoda

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Chairman Muto Inaugurates Regime

The new Chairman of the National Christian Council, the Rev. Takeshi Muto, held his initial meeting with members of the staff and office workers, at the Council offices, on April 2. He expressed his great desire for the cooperation of all involved in the Council's work. Without which, he said, it would not be possible to fulfill his responsibility. He went on to say that in view of the Centennial program and other unfinished work of the Council it was regrettable the Executive Committee could not find a person qualified to succeed the Rev. Mr. Hirai who has submitted his resignation as General Secretary. But, fortunately, he added, Mr. Hirai has consented to remain at his post a short while in order to assist the Chairman, particularly with ecumenical relations. He said it would be necessary to rely much on the assistance of Council Committee chairmen, notably The Rev. Iwao Niwa, Chairman of the General Affairs Committee who would assume some of Mr. Hirai's duties. Mr. Niwa was present together with Messrs. Igarashi and Miyakoda, Chairmen of the Finance and Publicity Committees, respectively. These gentlemen spoke of the situation and pledged their support.







Mr. Hirai extended his appreciation for the goodwill he had enjoyed from all the personnel, regretting his inability to have been of greater service to the Council. And he said he would do all he could to help in the period he would remain in office.

### Council Committee Chairmen Meeting Follows

All the committee chairmen with the exception of the Rev. Kenji Otani, Chairman of the Committee on Youth Work who was out of town, were present for the first consultation with the new Chairman of the Council. The Committees, General Affairs, Finance, Church, Publicity, Women's Work, Youth Work, and Social Problems, are headed respectively, by The Rev. Iwao Iwano, Mr. Takeo Igarashi, The Rev. Keitaro Nishimura, the Rev. Tsunetaro Yakoda, Mrs. Masako Takegami, The Rev. Kenji Otani and Mr. Saburo Nagai. Present also were secretaries for General Affairs, Finance, Youth Work and the Church School Department.

Mr. Muto extended his greeting and reviewed the situation to be met when Mr. Hirai finally leaves the Council. It was pointed out that the recently proposed and endorsed reorganization of the Council considerably enlarged the function and responsibility of the Committee on General Affairs and of the Council Chairman's office. The significant change in this connection is the increased consultative and supervisory responsibility of the Committee vis-a-vis the General Secretary, and the increased power of decision placed in the office of Council Chairman.

There was much discussion of the means for carrying on the Council's work in view of the new authority structure, with concern expressed for strengthening the relationships and unity among the several committees. The representation on these committees from the several groups affiliated with the Council and the efficient composition of committees for the work entrusted to them were then discussed at some length. Strict adherence to the provisions laid down in the Council's Constitution governing the composition and function of the committees was agreed upon. And caution to the committee chairmen, acting in concert, was enjoined lest membership and work of the committees "get out of line". It was noted that certain sub-committees had in the past been found to exceed their authority under the Constitution and to have exercised functions somewhat out of line with those designated as proper for their respective committees. With these principles well in mind, the meeting proceeded to determine the numbers and proportional representation on the committees. Precisely what matters fall within the purview of any committee was a question it was felt required much more careful consideration. The administrative secretaries of the several committees were recommended for reappointment to their posts on action of the Executive Committee of the Council.

### Youth Week Plans Ready

The Tenth Annual Youth Week sponsored by the Committee on Youth Work of the NCC will be observed May 24 - 31, under the theme, "The Second Century of Missions Is In Our Hands". It will mark the beginning of a year's activity intended to spread the conviction among the youth of the churches of their responsibility for the advance of Christian missions in Japan. During this year the youth will be organized, along lines of







local initiative and ecumenical cooperation, for the coming century of endeavor to "be the Church in the worlds".

### Handbook on Social Welfare

The recent publication of Shiro Abe's Handbook of Social Welfare is an event to be welcomed by all who have wished for a guide to this intricate field. The publication has been undertaken by the Committee on Christian Life of the NCC's Hundreth Anniversary Movement. And it is part of a program to awaken churchmen to their social responsibility and instruct them in more effective use of the organized social services. The average churchman's failure of responsibility in this area has been equalled only by his lack of acquaintance with the organizations and means available for handling the many requests that come his way. This booklet should be of considerable help in this regard and the Anniversary Movement Committee is to be thanked for undertaking its publication.

### Summer Program of Youth Committee

The annual ecumenical workcamps, caravans and other summer activities of the Youth Committee of the NCC which have been mentioned before in these columns are in the final stages of planning. An all English-speaking ecumenical workcamp to assist with the rehabilitation of Kumasaka "ouraku" in Izu Nagaoka will take place from July 15 to August 12. At the same time, a workcamp to expand last year's project at Okunakayama, begun under the Japan Church World Service's diary program, will be held. This workcamp will use both Japanese and English. The high school workcamp, this year, is to be at the "pioneer willage" of Arima in Kyushu, and the activity will be assistance in farming. Izu Peninsula will be the locale of this year's Youth Caravan which will conduct vacation Bible schools, evangelical and recreational programs in this area. The students-in-industry project, for which the dates have not been set, will take place in Osaka. The members of this project will live together at Osaka Kagakuin and the employed in several factories in the vicinity. The local committee on the project is at work on final plans.

### Annual Church School Meet

The Ninth Annual Assembly of Church School Teachers will be held May 4-5, in Yokohama. On the previous day, May 3, there will be a Church School Pupils Rally at Seibi Girls School to which children from all over Japan will come, although mainly attended by pupils from the Tokyo-Matsuyama area. The Assembly plans for group-study on the mornings of May 4 and 5, at Ferris School. The general subject of the study, "Evangelism Through Christian Education" will be introduced by several leaders each presenting the particular aspects of practical concern with such areas as "family life", "rural situation", etc. And the special problems of "audio-visual activities", "leadership of groups" and so on will be presented in lectures and discussed in the group-study. The Rev. Mr. Yamakita, Chairman of the Church School Department will be in charge of the group-study, and assisted by the Rev. Messrs. Shiro Aoyama, Atsushi Nishida, Koji Horie, Shinji Iwamura, Masami Mizuno, Isamu Omura, Ken Saeki and Mr. Kiyoshi Ogawa, each of whom will lead study with respect to his particular field of interest.







On the evening of May 4, at the Kanagawa Prefectural Music Hall, there will be an open public lecture program at which the main addresses are to be given by President Masutoshi Matsushita of St. Paul's University, Tokyo and Mrs. Taki Fujita, formerly Japan's representative for women's affairs on the United Nations Organization and a noted commentator on the problems of home and children. This program will be supported by the Osaka Christian Crusade and will feature a choral performance by the Kanagawa Christian Choir.

The Annual Meeting of the Church School Board of Directors will be held concurrently with the Assembly. And on the Afternoon of May 5, a "pilgrimage" is planned to the many Christian historical sites in and around Yokohama.



